

their perfect family. She and the volunteers and staff who work with her give the dogs that come to their home, medical care, food and shelter, and, most importantly, love and comfort. They seek out the right family for each pet, and help new pet-owners adjust to their new lives with their pets. In fact, they are a one-stop clearinghouse of information for new and seasoned pet-owners alike, with answers to frequently asked questions about pet care, recommendations for veterinarians and grooming, and more.

The testimonials on her website, www.auntmarysdoghouse.com demonstrate her unparalleled talent to match families with pets that meet their needs and schedules and familial temperament. For instance, from a rescued dog named Dina: "Thank you Mary for my rescue and letting me get adopted by Sandy. For a large breed black dog with an unknown past I know I'm a very lucky girl that there are people like Sandy to love and care for me."

Earlier this month, Mary's extraordinary public service was recognized by the American Red Cross of Northwest New Jersey with the Red Cross Medal for Bravery. And, it is my honor to commend her spirit of service to my colleagues here in Congress.

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN GUINEA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, with so many important and often vexing challenges competing for our attention throughout the world, it seems that the tendency in Congress is to focus our attention on a crisis only after it has evolved into an unmitigated disaster. Fortunately, that was not the case last week, when the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on prospects for peace in Guinea.

This hearing presented us with an opportunity to discuss not only our strategic, humanitarian, human rights, and economic interests in Guinea—particularly as speculation about President Lansana Conté's political future and the potential for even greater conflict mounts—but also to consider how the United States Government has positioned itself to respond to threats and mitigate crises before they have spun out of control.

The stakes are high. Western Africa historically has been beset by political instability and violence, where conflict in one country spills across borders and threatens the region as a whole. This has led to massive displacements, refugee flows, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the perpetration of some of the most heinous human rights atrocities known to man. If we fail to capitalize on the opportunity to address transformative, stabilization and reconstruction needs in support of a democratic transition in Guinea today, I fear that we may be headed for a much wider regional crisis down the road.

Experts have been warning for years that the "ground was quaking" in Guinea. Widespread dissatisfaction with the autocratic rule of an aged and ailing Conté, coupled with economic decline, high inflation, political cronyism

and corruption, has led to periodic episodes of unrest in Conakry. However, the union-led strikes of December 2006 through February 2007 took on a new dimension. For the first time since the country obtained independence in 1958, Guineans across the nation have taken to the streets en masse, demanding change and refusing to accept half measures.

Through solidarity, the unions, opposition parties and civil society gained strength, and in the end, they succeeded in exacting critical concessions from the government. But while this symbolizes a significant victory, the hardest part is yet to come.

While the naming of the new consensus prime minister, Lansana Kouyaté on February 27th is a significant step forward, the office of the Prime Minister is not constitutionally protected and Conté has a record of breaking agreements. In addition, substantial resources are urgently needed for economic and social programs that will address the root causes of social unrest and shore-up popular support for the Prime Minister. History has shown that Conté is unlikely to share power in a meaningful way, and the longer he keeps his hand on the tiller in his authoritarian style, the more likely a renewed and destructive political crisis will emerge.

That said, it is widely speculated that—one way or another—Conté will not finish his term in office. His health is extremely poor and his power appears to be waning. Even the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, which typically shy away from criticizing one of their own in public, have condemned Conté's violent response to protests and have suggested that this may be the appropriate time for him to step down. Experts are no longer talking about *IF* Conté will leave office, but *WHEN* and under what conditions he will leave.

Still, Conté has not designated a successor and, in fact, has sidelined a number of individuals who appeared poised to succeed him. The President of the National Assembly, who would be the successor to the President under the terms of the Constitution, is widely unpopular. It has been widely suggested that a military takeover may be the only option for a "soft landing" should Conté die in office or retire to his farm.

However, I would strongly contend that a military takeover in Guinea, no matter how "temporary" it is intended to be, should NOT be considered an appealing option. The military is divided along generational and ethnic lines. Neither Guineans nor the international community should assume that the military is a cohesive group capable or willing to deliver a smooth transition to a democratic, civilian-led government.

While the responsibility for fostering an environment of peace and security in Guinea rests with Guineans, the United States is in a unique position to help facilitate a non-violent, democratic resolution to this crisis. Guineans remember the fact that it was the United States who came to their aid when Guinea was attacked by the Revolutionary United Front rebels from Sierra Leone, with the support of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. We also have invested heavily in peace in Liberia, and have credibility in the region. Guinea is a predominantly Muslim country which is favorably disposed to the United States. The time to help is now . . . before the crisis spirals out of control.

HONORING SGT MICHAEL A.
MARZANO

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. JASON ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, Marine SGT Michael A. Marzano. Last Tuesday, March 20, I joined my colleague, Congressman Phil English, in introducing H.R. 1594, legislation to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Hermitage, Pennsylvania in Sergeant Marzano's honor.

In December 2004, Sergeant Marzano volunteered for a tour of duty in Iraq and joined Ohio's 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment of the 4th Marine Division. He served honorably as a member of a Mobile Assault Platoon. On May 8, 2005, Sergeant Marzano was killed by a suicide bomber while taking part in an offensive against insurgents in the city of Haditha, Al-Anbar Province, Iraq.

Sergeant Marzano was the first soldier from Mercer County to die in either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. He exemplified the core values of honor, courage and commitment to a grateful nation and community. This designation will honor his memory and recognize his bravery and sacrifice. He is representative of all of Mercer County's veterans who have worn the uniform proudly, upheld the military's traditions of courage and faithful service, and stood ready, if duty required it, to make the ultimate sacrifice.

HONORING TIBOR HOLLO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize someone who has contributed significantly to the growth of Miami for more than 30 years. Tibor Hollo is a wonderful man whose impact on South Florida can be seen from its skyline. Over the years, Florida East Coast Realty, which Mr. Hollo founded in 1952, has become an integral part of South Florida's development.

Today's skyline surrounding Brickell Avenue and Miami's financial district can be attributed to Mr. Hollo's vision. In 1972, he constructed Brickell Avenue's first high-rise building, which today is surrounded by countless others. In the years since, downtown Miami has changed drastically, many of its improvements a result of Mr. Hollo's entrepreneurship. It came as no surprise when Mr. Hollo received the Miami Visionary Award; he took chances, seized opportunity, and was rewarded for his determination.

Today, Mr. Hollo continues to be involved with many projects in South Florida. His company, Florida East Coast Realty, is celebrating its 55th Anniversary and continues to play a major role in South Florida's real estate market. Included among many noteworthy projects over the years has been the construction of two United States Treasury buildings and a United States Justice building. It was fitting

that he constructed the first high-rise apartment building of this millennium, opening the Bay Parc Plaza in January of 2000.

Miami is a city that will continue to grow and inspire us. I am grateful and proud of Mr. Hollo's accomplishments over the years. He has left a legacy others have pursued and will continue to follow for years to come. Miami's high-rise architecture is truly unique and sets it apart from so many other large metropolitan cities across this country. Once again, as a fellow South Floridian, I would like to recognize Mr. Hollo for his outstanding achievements.

THE "CHESAPEAKE'S HEALTHY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND STEWARDSHIP OF ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE" ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Chesapeake's Healthy and Environmentally Sound Stewardship of Energy and Agriculture Act of 2007"—CHESSEA. This bill will have a major beneficial impact on the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and many of its 150 tributary streams and rivers. We invite and encourage you to join us as original cosponsors.

Like many of America's natural resources, the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers continue to be plagued by pollution. Unfortunately, agriculture accounts for a significant part of the nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment running to the Bay. The House will soon take up the 2007 farm bill which will provide billions of dollars a year for farm conservation programs and therefore, provides an unparalleled opportunity for our region to address its critical conservation needs.

CHESSEA would bring significant new federal technical and financial assistance to farmers and landowners in the Bay watershed states to help them in their efforts to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment runoff into the streams and rivers that run to the Chesapeake Bay. It would also provide additional incentives for the region's farmers to produce new sources of renewable energy that will simultaneously improve water quality and reduce the impact of fossil fuel consumption on the atmosphere.

Over the past five years, several Chesapeake Bay states have committed significant new funding to try to reach the goals of the federal-state Chesapeake 2000 agreement, which set specific pollution reduction goals for 2010. In spite of those commitments, we are far from meeting the 2010 goals. The experts have estimated that in order to meet our clean up pledge, the federal Government will have to provide \$200 million a year. This legislation would help to fulfill the federal government's Chesapeake 2000 commitment to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution to the Bay while at the same time helping the region's agriculture and rural areas.

The Chesapeake Bay and several of the major rivers that feed it, including the Susquehanna, the Potomac, and the James, are among America's most stunning natural features. Approximately 400 years ago, Captain

John Smith and the Jamestown settlers sailed into a Chesapeake Bay that was healthy, balanced, and among the world's most biologically productive places. Today, the Bay and its rivers are sadly diminished. The CHESSEA Act of 2007 would make significant progress toward restoring the Bay's balance and biological productivity to support generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE MORELLI HOUSE PRESERVATION PROJECT

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, the Junior League of Las Vegas (JLLV), in community partnership with the Las Vegas Chapter of the Architects Institute of America (AIA Las Vegas), will debut the Junior League's Morelli House Preservation Project on Monday, April 9, 2007. After years of hard work and fundraising, the Junior League's Morelli House Preservation Project will open for public viewing as a pristine, accurate and beautiful example of Las Vegas mid-century residential architecture.

The Morelli House was built in 1959 by Antonio Morelli, longtime orchestra leader at the Sands Hotel, and was originally located on the Desert Inn Golf Course Estates, now the Wynn Resort. In 2001, the League saved the house from demolition and relocated it to the corner of 9th and Bridger Streets on the outskirts of the historical district in downtown Las Vegas. Because the Morelli House is an excellent example of Las Vegas Mid Century modern architecture and displays a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship and even association, it was placed on the Nevada State Register of Historic Places in 2002 and on the City of Las Vegas Historical Register March 7, 2007.

The opening of the Morelli House to the public and the lecture will be the premier event of Architecture Week, a nationwide celebration that marks the 150th anniversary of the National American Institute of Architects. In addition, the 2007 edition "Architecture: Las Vegas", the official publication of the AIA Las Vegas Chapter, will also premier at the event and will feature an article on the Junior League's restoration of the Morelli House. The Morelli House restoration was made possible by funding from the Nevada Commission on Cultural Affairs and by generous donations by Junior League members and the community. The debut will be highlighted by a lecture on Mid Century architecture by foremost architectural historian, Alan Hess. The Junior League will be completing restoration and rehabilitation efforts to meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation for Historical Structures by the end of 2008.

With the help of the Las Vegas Design Center at the World Market Center, JLLV secured participation by Vladimir Kagan, world famous Mid Century furniture designer, to serve as the Morelli House's lead interior designer. Mr. Kagan's historical furniture will be permanently showcased at the Morelli House with donations which he personally solicited from his manufacturers including American Leather and Weiman Preview and from pieces he donated from his personal furniture collection.

Because of the project's prominence, the AIA will be presenting the Junior League one of its esteemed "Livable Community Awards". These awards, established in 2006, were designed to recognize organizations and individuals outside the architectural profession, whose dedication, commitment, hard work and contributions to the security, arts, culture, beauty and livability of our communities have made Nevada a better place to live.

The Las Vegas Junior League deserves recognition for its Morelli House project and for sharing this beautiful example of Las Vegas Mid Century architecture with the local community and our visitors for many years to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding collaborative effort to preserve historical architecture for future generations to enjoy.

A BILL TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN QUESTIONS ARE PLACED ON THE BALLOT OF THE 2008 GENERAL ELECTION IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to introduce legislation directing the Secretary of the Interior to ensure that certain questions related to American Samoa's political status, democratic process, and Federal relationship are to be placed on the ballot of our 2008 general election.

Specifically, this legislation mandates that the following three questions are to be addressed on the ballot in American Samoa:

1. Whether individuals who are born in American Samoa should become citizens of the United States.
2. Whether the Senators of the American Samoa Fono should be elected by the qualified electors from the respective counties that the Senators are to represent.
3. Whether American Samoa should have its own Federal district court with limited jurisdiction.

I believe that placing these questions on the ballot would provide our people an opportunity to have a voice in the shaping of American Samoa's political future. Moreover, the answers to these questions will assist our local political leaders in the shaping of our territory's policies and legislation.

I firmly believe that the people of American Samoa deserve the right to be heard on these fundamental issues. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that would give American Samoa's voting public this right.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. REBECCA DOLORES JARAMILLO

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Rebecca Dolores Jaramillo, a remarkable and compassionate